

Memorial Day is a time for all Americans to remember those who have sacrificed in service to our country. This special holiday is our opportunity to honor America's veterans and the service men and women now protecting our freedoms.

On the battlefield, the military pledges to leave no soldier behind. As a nation, it is our pledge that when they return home, we leave no veteran behind.

While we salute our men and women in uniform for the courage and bravery that they exhibit in battle, we must also recognize the sacrifices of their families. Congress has worked in a bipartisan manner to more closely analyze the needs of military families while their loved ones are deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, making certain that families have the tools they need for transition when loved ones return home.

We have significantly raised our investments in resources and services to improve the quality of life for veterans, by increasing education and healthcare benefits, as well as strengthening other services for troops and families.

As the daughter of a World War II veteran, I am particularly concerned about post traumatic stress syndrome, which has claimed too many lives already. I am pleased that President Obama has committed to aggressively tackle the health needs of our veterans, including substance abuse, PTSD, suicide prevention and homelessness prevention.

Congress is also working with the Obama Administration to enact major policies to ensure military readiness, responsibly end the war in Iraq, and refocus the fight against terrorism in Afghanistan.

I will continue to work with my colleagues to ensure we keep our promises to our courageous men and women in uniform.

Sincerely,

Buffy

